Application No. 10/715,500

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14 and 20-25 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3-5, 12, 13, 15-19 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, claims 1, 10 and 14 are amended, and claims 20-25 are added. No new matter is added by any of these amendments. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Gerhard W. Thielman Registration No. 43,186

JAO:GWT/gwt

Date: January 29, 2004

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